Youth's Department.

Conducted by Lottie Holsinger.

Try Again.

...lth the flaxen hair,
...picture of despair.
...times six and eight times seven,
...plits, and by eleven
...—O no, divide—
...lon't know what beside,
...is horrid, horrid sum!
...I can not make it come."
...said Margy, with a sigh,
...ing, "'Tis no use to try."

...ray-haired grandma, sitting near,
Heard the sigh and saw the tear.
"Margy, darling, hither come;
Let me see that 'horrid sum."
Scanning all the work, she saw
Here a slip and their a flaw.
"Ah, my Margy, plain to see
Why the figures don't agree.
Little maid thy sore distress
Is the fruit of heedlessness."

"O, but grandma, I have tried
Just as hard!" poor Margy cried;
"But the naughty figures go
Somehow always wrong, you know."
Then, to her supreme dismay,
Grandma sponged the work away,
And for Margy's eyes to read,
Wrote, in letters large and plain,
"IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED,
TRY, AND TRY, AND TRY AGAIN."

When the wise old saw she read,
"Thank you, grandma dear," she said,
Then with bright and cheerful air
Worked the sum with double care,
And the answer—happy sight—
Came at last exactly right.
"Now," the little maiden cried,
Laughing in her girlish pride,
"When my naughty sums go wrong,
'TRY AGAIN' shall be my song."

Our Scripture Lesson For Dec. 21st.

Read Eccles. 12: 1—14.

"Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth." This is one of the most beautiful commandments ever given, and is addressed to those who are just emerging from innocent childhood into impulsive youth. Coming as it does from lips of wisdom, we can easily judge of the importance of obeying it. The youth starts out into the world to perform the work which he thinks is allotted to him, and to seek his fortune; but at every step he finds himself confronted with glaring temptations and powerful allurements to sin; and if he remembers not his Creator as he moves from scene to scene, he will be as the mariner without a compass far out on the stormy, restless sea.

In our last lesson we learned how utterly foolish it is to try to satisfy our souls with earthly pleasures, and in this lesson we want to learn the beauty of youthful piety. The best time to begin serving God is before our souls are soiled with sin; before we have formed many wicked habits. We should go to Jesus in the sunny morning of life and lay our guileless souls at his feet. We should enlist early with his faithful soldiers and assist in oppoeing and conquering the enemies of God.

We should so live that the days will not come, nor the years draw nigh, when we will say, we have no pleasure in them. How beautiful and how grand are the lives of those who in youth consecrate themselves to God and continue faithfully to the end! How bright is their hope of future happiness, and how firm and strong is their trust in Him whom they remembered, not only in youth, but all the days of their lives.

We are indebted to God for life and all the blessings which we daily enjoy, and the best way we can repay Him for his loving kindness is to devote our entire lives to His service. Everyone is invited to come to Jesus, and knowing the uncertainty of life, and the certainty of death, it is unsafe and unwise to not accept the invitation; besides it would be a shame for us to spend the best part of our lives in the ways of sin and turn to God in old age and ask him to take us into his kingdom.

Soon the silver cord will be loosed, and the golden bowl be broken, and our souls will stand in the presence of God and before him will be brought our life-work whether it be good or evil. Little readers what do you want your record to be on that day? Do you want it to be one of wickedness and disobedience? Do you want it to be a record that will cause you to cry for the hills to fall upon you and hide you from the presence of Him who is to judge the world? Or do you want it to be a record of purity and holiness? If the latter, God will say: "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord." That is what we will want to hear, and every one who desires to inherit a reward of righteousness should be willing to labor faithfully in the vineyard of the Lord.

The conclusion of Solomon's instructions is: "Fear God and keep his commandments;" and the Savior said: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Let us remember our Creator in the days of our youth, and forget him not when age comes on, then, when death shall still our life-pulse, God will remember us and give us a golden crown to wear. He will make us lie down in green pastures, and lead us beside the still waters of perpetual happiness.

Dear Children; We had a good sermon last week and I hope you have all carefully read it. The story of the little blind child should teach us an important lesson. If she could be happy whose eyes were always sealed, how very happy and grateful we should be who can see so many beautiful objects, but dearer than all, the faces of those who love us. Do you know that if we should become blind, we would find much pleasure in remembering the faces of our best friends. Then how very careful we should be to never do anything that would cause them to wear anything but a pleasant expression.

Josie Clapper need not be ashamed of her first attempt. The printers were able to read your writing, Josie. I am glad you met papa, and like him. Some of his many little friends call him "Uncle Henry." The one great reason for your liking him is because he likes you. If you have a doubt as to this truth, try it, Josie. If there is some one who you think does not like you, try your best to like them and I feel certain they will soon prove to you that "Love begets love." I am sorry I could not be with you. Will take pleasure in making you a visit sometime. Another pearly drop! God bless the little willing hearts.

Which Was the Gentleman?

Master Frank Amory went to the picnic, and so did Jimmy Bell. Frank's father was a rich merchant; and Frank wore a handsome summer suit, a nobby hat, and French kid shoes. Jimmy's father was a day laborer; and Jimmy's knees and elbows were patched, his hat was torn, and he was barefoot. But he looked neat and clean, besides being kind and pleasant.

There was only one barrel of ice-water, with one drinking cup; and as it was a hot day, there was a crowd around the barrel most of the time.

A half-dozen girls had just come to the barrel, when Frank at the head of a file of boys, came running up, and snatching the cup rudely, began to drink.

"Shame on you, Frank!" said one of the girls. "Don't you know you always ought to let girls drink first?"

"I dunno as girls are any bet ter'n I am," said Frank with a coarse laugh, as he started off again.

Not long after, Jimmy and some other boys had come to the barrel, when shy little Minnie Caray came up.

"Wait, boys!" said Jimmy, dipping out a cup of water, "Let Minnie drink first." And he very politely handed her the cup. Minnie drank, and thanked him as she handed it back again.

Such were the two boys; and now, please look back to the question I began with, and answer it.

A Way to Grow Wise.

After reading a book, or an article, or an item of information from any reliable source, before turning your attention to other things, give two or three minutes' quiet thought to the subject that has just been presented to your mind; see how much you can remember concerning it; and if there were any new ideas, instructive facts, or points of especial interest that impressed you as you read, for yourself to recall them. It may be a little troublesome at first until your mind gets under control and learns to obey your will, but the very effort to think it all out will engrave the fact deeply upon the memory, so deeply that they will not be effaced by the rushing in of a new and different set of ideas, whereas, if the matter be given no further consideration at all, the impression you have received will fade away so entirely that within a few weeks you will be totally unable to remember more than a dim outline of them.

Form the good habit, then, of always reviewing what has just been read. It exercises and disciplines the mental faculties, strengthens the memory, and teaches concentration of thought.

You will soon think and reason intelligibly, to separate and classify different kinds of information; and in time the mind, instead of being a lumber room in which the various contents are thrown together in careless confusion and disorder, will become a store house where each special class or item of knowledge, neatly labelled, has its own particular place and is ready for use the moment there is need of it.—*St. Nicholas.*

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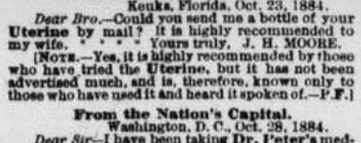

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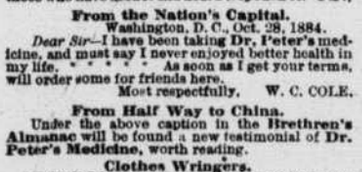

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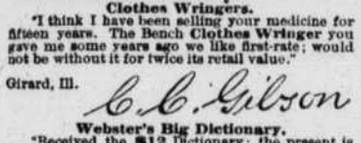

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